Riots in Kanpur

3515. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cause of recent riots that broke in Kanpur has been inquired/established;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Communal violence erupted on March 16 in Kanpur when a procession of Muslim youth carrying effigies of the Prime Minister and Shri Bangaru Laxman (former President, BJP) and another group protesting against the alleged burning of Quran in Delhi on 5.3.2001 turned violent, opened fire on the police and targeted some Hindu temples and shops belonging to Hindus as well as police pickets. The police fired tear gas shells and subsequently opened fire to disperse the violent mob. Violence continued upto March 19, 2001.

As per the latest report received from the Uttar Pradesh Government, 14 persons, including one Addl. District Magistrate (Finance) were killed and 24 persons, including eleven police personnel were injured. Some religious places, building, shops and vehicles were also damaged. A total of 112 weapons/ammunition viz., country-made pistols, bombs, cartridges and knives were recovered by the police and 286 persons arrested.